

The first trace we have of this tornado was about a mile and a half south of the village of Woodville where it moved a large dwelling about an inch on its foundation. From that point it continued in a north-northeast direction dealing death and destruction in its path through the County of Rappahannock. There is not enough of the high school left intact to build a chicken coop. House and scholars all blown away and why all were not killed was a miracle. Some found unconscious 200 yards from the site of the building. Five are in the hospital.

The losses in the county have been estimated at \$200,000.

In the valley of the Cowpasture River are several villages, among them Coronation and Sitlington, in lower Bath County. In these communities property losses were serious, and while a number of persons were injured, none were killed. The storm occurred in this section around 6 p. m., so there were no children in the school buildings at the time. Mr. E. J. Peters, who viewed what appeared to be the formation of the tornado, says that it appeared as if two strong winds met just below his place and formed one current of great velocity, destroying practically everything in its path. Buildings in the center of the path, which was from 250 to 800 yards in width, were destroyed, while those on the border were only partially destroyed. Mr. G. L. Schumaker, postmaster at Covington, followed the storm path for about 12 miles. He reports:

The storm continued about 17 miles. In some cases farmers lost all their property. One orchard, consisting of one hundred and fifty 21-year old apple trees belonging to J. W. White, was destroyed. At Mr. E. J. Peters' place, the roof of the house was taken off and the barn, in which his sister was milking a cow at the time of the storm, was lifted up and carried away. His sister was found some distance from where the barn had stood, under a floor of the barn, one edge of which was resting on a stone wall. She was not injured, nor were the six cows that were in the barn. Poultry houses and poultry were carried away. Some of the chickens were found at a distance, dead, and practically divested of feathers. The property losses in this valley were estimated at \$75,000.

In the vicinity north of Hamilton, the storm path was about 200 yards wide and extended for about 2 miles. At one farm, the house, barn, and other smaller buildings were destroyed and a cow killed. The man and his wife were injured, but no deaths resulted in this section. At other places in this vicinity, damages were sustained to houses and barns and one large brick church. The total loss being estimated at \$50,000.

The Lagrange-Weaversville tornado, which was the last in point of time, struck Lagrange around 7:30 or 8 o'clock. In this vicinity, two persons were killed when their house was destroyed. No details nor estimate as

to property damage sustained in this vicinity was obtained, but to the northeast in Fauquier County, there was greater loss of life and more extensive property damage. Four persons were killed at Weaversville, and another probably fatally injured, but subsequent reports as to this have not been received. There were eight persons injured and sent to hospitals. Two residences were demolished, one a 14-room brick building, and four others greatly damaged. The storm seems to have extended about a mile farther. Rev. George W. Crabtree, of Catlett, has been quoted in a news dispatch, as follows:

I was in my house and heard a terrible roar like several trains. I looked out and saw black clouds swirling overhead. Trees were bent to the ground and the house rattled. It was about 7:30 p. m. A neighbor told me the cyclone had hit down the road and I drove to the scene. All lights were out and trees were across the road, making it difficult to drive. As I reached the place most severely struck by the storm, I saw houses that had been flattened, telephone wires all over the place and debris over a radius of several hundred yards. It was raining in torrents and the wind was still blowing hard. Then came the task of pulling the dead and injured from the ruins.

In addition to the persons killed, one herd of 15 cattle was destroyed, a few of the cattle remaining alive were killed later because of the nature of the injuries. No estimate of the property losses in this community was secured, but it seems probable that they were equal to or greater than those in the vicinity of Hamilton, Loudoun County, where they were placed at \$50,000.

The writer did not visit any of the devastated communities, hence the facts recited were necessarily gathered from those who were near at hand. Direct observation of funnel cloud was made in three instances, Rye Cove, Woodville, and Cowpasture Valley. The lateness of the hour in the other cases probably accounts for lack of definite information as to that feature of the storm's appearance. Reports from observers from all the communities, class them as tornadoes. In the Cowpasture Valley, for at least a part of the storm path, trees were prostrated in one direction, that in which the storm was traveling. But this alone should not lead to the conclusion that it was not a tornado. The demolishing, lifting, and scattering of a building, greater destructiveness near the center of the path than on the borders, are features that indicate tornadic winds. Tornadoes travel rapidly, as a rule, passing any given point in a few moments of time. There is always a terrific noise, carrying consternation to any living thing in its path. Only by observing at a distance can a correct impression of a tornado's outer appearance be gained.

## THE TROPICAL STORM OF JUNE 28, 1929

By W. P. DAY

Pressure had been low for several days previous to the 28th over the western portion of the Gulf of Mexico, but it was not until this date that any definite disturbance was more than suspected, a call for special observations being made on the morning of the 28th. A much delayed report from the steamship *Chester O. Swain* (the first vessel report in this region for several days) located the storm off the Texas coast and the following warning was immediately issued:

Hoist northeast storm warning 2 p. m. Galveston to Corpus Christi; disturbance of unknown but probably moderate intensity; central about latitude 27° N., longitude 95° 30' W., apparently moving north-northwestward; will cause strong shifting winds probably gales at times on the Texas coast between Corpus Christi and Galveston.

The storm was of extremely small diameter, but of considerable intensity over a path about 20 miles in diam-

eter from Port O'Connor to San Antonio. The lowest barometer reading probably was not below 29 inches, 29.12 being reported from Port O'Connor, 29.1 at Victoria, and 29.44 at San Antonio. Being of such small diameter, the storm did not last more than two or three hours at any one point, but estimated wind velocities as high as 80 miles per hour were reported. Corpus Christi and Galveston were only slightly affected.

Due to the difficulty in locating the storm, which was apparently in process of rapid development even as it struck the coast, adequate warnings were impossible for Port O'Connor and the southern portion of Matagorda Peninsula, the storm passing Port O'Connor at 4:30 p. m. The storm lasted from 4:30 to 6 p. m. at Port Lavaca and from 6:30 to 8 p. m. at Victoria.